



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Environment Committee  
Public Testimony  
Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5420 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDS FOR WATER SUPPLIES IN CONTAMINATED AREAS AND SENATE BILL 306 AN ACT ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REAUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PROVIDE POTABLE WATER TO COMMUNITIES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and esteemed members of the Environment Committee,

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I would like to bring your attention to two bills that are before the committee, Senate Bill 306 and House Bill 5420. Both of these bills are meant to help rectify a long standing well water issue in my district. In the 1980's, it was discovered the well water in dozens of homes in the Broad Brook area of East Windsor had been contaminated by ethylene dibromide (EDB) and in some cases trichloroethylene (TCE) from tobacco farming operations. As a result, these houses have required filtration systems to provide for clean drinking water.

Although most households receive funding for these systems through a court settlement agreement, there are over 40 homes in Broad Brook which were contaminated but not part of the settlement agreement. Since then, these households have been part of the state's potable water program, which provided for the filters. After last session, however, it was uncovered that the program had been eliminated without warning or public hearing in the budget implementer.

Senate Bill 306, specifically section 2, would reinstitute the authority of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection to provide potable drinking water to citizens under certain circumstances. House Bill 5420 would assist municipalities in providing uncontaminated drinking water by affording for financial relief in addressing water supply concerns in areas affected by contamination.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of both Senate Bill 306 and House Bill 5420.

Respectfully,

Christopher Davis  
State Representative, 57<sup>th</sup> District

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